

Positive Alternatives 2015 - 16 Quarterly Update

Grantee: Tapestry Pregnancy and Family Resource Center

Goal: To provide necessary support and referrals to pregnant and parenting women in Minnesota

For the period: July 1, 2015 – Sept 30, 2015

Activity or Service	Activity or Service Description Major Work Plan Activities	Work Plan Count	Program Progress and Accomplishments Report the progress and accomplishments made this period on each activity.	Report Count
Car Seat Program	Provide car seat education; distribute car seats	6	Car seats were distributed to all clients who participated in our prenatal program and delivered during Quarter 4. Since majority of our clients are low-income and without insurance, this program helps to relive the financial burden of purchasing new equipment. See challenges.	7
Case Management Services	Provide on-going follow-up for clients testing positive for pregnancy and for single mothers who are in crisis and need support services	15	Program has been very successful. Initial meeting with a client can be overwhelming with so much info. The follow up allows us to reiterate programs and services available and set up appropriate appointments to help clients follow through on receiving services.	164
Child Assistance	Provide resources and referrals to help clients find child care	5	Child care resources continue to be a significant need for moms. Program helps to provide referrals that fit specific need of client.	0
Crib Distribution/ Sleep Safety Education	Provide Sleep Safe education; distribute cribs	6	Cribs and sleep safety were distributed to all clients who participated in our prenatal program and delivered during Quarter 3. Since majority of our clients are low-income and without insurance, this program helps relieve the financial burden of purchasing new equipment. See challenges.	8
Education Assistance	Provide education planning and resource referrals to assist clients with further education; provide computer workstations for client use in educational pursuits; coordinate and supervise volunteer mentors who provide GED tutoring	5	Many of our clients have not completed their high school diploma. Advocates are assisting client in signing up for GED classes and offering on-going support to encourage clients to follow through and complete the process. See Challenges.	1

Activity or Service	Activity or Service Description Major Work Plan Activities	Work Plan Count	Program Progress and Accomplishments Report the progress and accomplishments made this period on each activity.	Report Count
Employment Assistance	Provide career planning and resource referrals to assist clients with finding employment; provide computer workstations with computers for client use in employment searches	5	As clients begin to express interest in moving into full time employment and off of MFIB, advocates are available to help with resume writing, cover letters, mock interviews, online job search and applications. See challenges.	1
Financial Assistance	Provide assistance in completing financial assistance and crib (pack n' play) applications	15	Clients who find themselves in a pregnancy related crisis and unable to afford rent meet with an advocate to prepare a financial assistance application for Cradle of Hope or Life Fund. In addition, advocates prepare crib applications to provide extra support and a safe place for baby to sleep through Cradle of Hope.	13
Housing Assistance	Provide resources and referrals to help clients find housing	10	Finding affordable housing options continues to be a serious challenge for our clients. Advocates work closely with clients and local property management companies to search out affordable lease options for clients. In addition, advocates may help clients find shelters or transitional housing options.	8
Life-Skills Education Program	Provide financial accountability/money management education; provide employment/career planning education and support	10	Clients who are interested in learning financial management tools and employment education can attend life-skill classes to work through applicable curriculum, learn from an instructor and participate in group discussions.	83
Material Support	Provide material assistance such as diapers, maternity and baby clothes to pregnant and parenting women	60	Material support continues to be a significant need. Program numbers continue to rise.	95
Mental Health	Provide individual therapy sessions and facilitate support groups for pregnant and parenting mothers in crisis; provide referrals for mental health assessments or assistance with treatment programs; provide emotional health and healing workshop	15	Counseling program is flourishing as clients are able to work on deeper issues related to their current crisis situation. Both individual sessions and the support group continue to be a success.	57

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Nutrition	Provide health and nutrition education and cooking classes; provide prenatal vitamins	5	Finished Tapestry's newly revamped Health & Nutrition Class. New material is more applicable to clients currently on WIC and SNAP, helping them to eat healthy on a budget and move toward a place where WIC and SNAP is no longer needed.	22
Parenting Education	Provide parenting education; coordinate and supervise Volunteer Parenting Mentors	5	Parenting education continues to flourish and be a place where clients learn how break unhealthy cycles of parenting, how to parent with love and logic, and how to teach children responsibility and high self worth.	106
Pregnancy Education	Provide pregnancy education and counseling; provide childbirth education	45	Prenatal program continues to grow. Much success with the prenatal health education as clients are very receptive and enjoy the opportunity to ask questions.	37
Pregnancy Testing	Provide pregnancy counseling, assessment for program eligibility and testing	30	Pregnancy testing and peer counseling continues to be a significant need in this community.	39
Ultrasound	Provide ultrasound and enroll in on-site prenatal care	15	Every positive pregnancy test client is transitioned into an ultrasound. This services continues to be an incredibly valuable tool in providing clients with an opportunity to bond with their baby.	16

Maternal and Child Health Initiative Task Force Strategies	No.
<i>Number of women who received car seats and car seat safety education from a PA funded program activity</i>	7
<i>Number of women who received car seat safety education only from a PA funded program activity</i>	
<i>Number of women who received child abuse prevention education from a PA funded program activity</i>	

Maternal and Child Health Initiative Task Force Strategies	No.
<i>Number of women who received abusive head trauma (shaken baby) prevention education from a PA funded program activity</i>	
<i>Number of women who received a baby bed, crib, or pack-n-play and sleep safety education from a PA funded program activity</i>	8
<i>Number of women who received sleep safety education only from a PA funded program activity</i>	8

Challenges: Childcare Assistance Program: As many of our clients are challenged with lack of employment opportunities, they are also challenged with paying for childcare. Unfortunately, to look for work and be employed they need childcare. It creates a vicious cycle, leaving them always behind. We are working closely with clients to determine the best use of their resources to develop a budget and plan to pay for childcare until income is stable. Due to the unemployment rate, many of our clients are not in need of childcare until they are more stabilized. Education Assistance Program: Many of our clients are challenged with lack of employment opportunities with adequate earning power because they have not completed their high school education or secondary education. Tapestry continues to work with clients encouraging GED tutoring and enrollment into secondary education. The low numbers may contribute to Q4 including months in the middle of the spring semester. We continue to promote our computer lab area and are brainstorming on how to increase the interest in this service. Employment Assistance Program: While majority of our clients are single moms, employment continues to be a huge barrier. Many of our clients find themselves challenged with the lack of employment that will cover the cost of childcare. While the county offers childcare assistance, the waiting list is 2 years. Tapestry continues to work with clients to break down the dysfunctional mindset that welfare is better than searching for stable employment and raising earning power.

Comments: